(c) the total quantity of pepper exported to various countries and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to boost the export of pepper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) The details of the total exports of black pepper including pepper powder during the last 3 years are given below:—

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1993-94	46,857	178.7957
1994-95	35,371	225.8716
1995-96 (P)	24,223	181.8453
1996-97(Apr. 96-Jan. 97)	35,500	292.42
1995-96(Apr. 95-Jan. 96)	18,326	131.64

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta/Shipping Bills/Exporters' Returns.

The exports of black pepper have shown a mixed trend in terms of quantity & value during the last three years. Exports during April-Jan. (1996-97) have shown a sub-stantial increase over the corresponding period last year.

The main reason for decline in export of pepper during 1995-96 was depressed demand in USA, the major pepper importing country.

The country-wise details of exports are available in the monthly bulletin/annual numbers of the Foreign Trade Statistics published by the DGCI&S, Calcutta, copies of which are supplied to the Parliament Library.

(d) Apart from the general trade policy reforms, the steps taken to enhance export of spices including pepper are abolition of cess on export of pepper (except green pepper in brine) to enhance its price competitiveness in the overseas markets; implementation of brand promotion schemes like logo promotion; grant of spice house certificate as a recognition of processor exporters of quality products; setting up of laboratories for testing of products; technology transfer; process upgradaton and product development.

Review of Advance Licensing Scheme

2291. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the advance licensing scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when the above review is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) As part of the exercise of formulation of the new Export and Import Policy all the major export Promotion schemes including the Advance Licensing Scheme are proposed to be reviewed. The details of the same would be available when the new Export and Import Policy will be announced in April, 1997.

Export of Sandal Wood Oil and Jasmine Concentrate

2292. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the condition on export of sandal wood oil and jasmine concentrate; and

(b) the reasons for sudden on exports thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Export of Sandalwood Oil is permitted subject to (i) production of Certificate of Origin from the Principal/ Chief Conservator of Forests of the State concerned; (ii) No Objection Certificate from the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India; and (iii) Any other condition, includiung a ceiling

that may be imposed by the Director General of Foreign Trade. A ceiling of 5,000 Kg. of Sandalwood Oil has been permitted for exports during the year keeping in mind the availability of sandal wood from legal sources and the requirements of various domestic industries.

The decision to allow the export of sandalwood oil subject to the above mentioned conditions was taken on the recommendation of Ministry of Environment & Forests on the ground that Sandalwood oil being a forest produce and not a machine finished product, its exports cannot be freely permitted.

So far as Jasmine Concentrates is concerned, the same is not appearing in the Negative List of Exports and hence is freely allowed for export to all permissibe destinations subject to any other law for the time being in force.

Smuggling of Cardamom

2293. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 245 given in the Rajya Sabha on 9th December, 1996 and state:

(a) whether the concerned customs authorities and other officers are vigilant to prevent smuggling of cardamom to India;

(b) whether any instance of cardamom smuggling has been detected so far;

(c) if so, action taken against the culprits; and

(d) whether any search has been made in the domestic market to find out whether any foreign cardamom is being sold in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) On receipt of complaints of cardamom of Guatemalan orgin being smuggled from Nepal to India, all Concerned Customs authorities and their field formations were alerted. Deptt. of Revenue launched a special drive to intercept the cardamom being smuggled from Nepal into India and the drive has resulted in a number of recent seizures of cardamom on the Indo-Nepal border. The details of the seizures of Cardamom on the Indo-Nepal border are as under:—

Year	Quantity seized (in kgs.)
1995-96	323
1996-97 (Prov.) (Upto Dec. 96)	27891

Smuggling of Rubber

2294. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that smuggling of rubber is a usual occurence through our borders;

(b) whether any such smuggling has been detected so far; and

(c) if so, action being taken to check it in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Coffee Plantation in the Hilly Areas of Andhra Pradesh

2295. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any headway has been made by the Coffee Board to plant coffee in the hilly areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether any survey has been done of the suitable areas of Andhra Pradesh for coffee cultivation; and

(c) if so, proposals under consideration by the Coffee Board to extend coffee cultivation in Andhra Pradesh in 1997-98?